

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the foreign priority claim filed on January 14, 2003 was not entered.

Applicants further acknowledge the suggestion for a translation of the foreign patent submitted in the IDS.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. Claims 1-15 have been amended. Claim 16 has been added. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-15 have been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Knauff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,754) (hereinafter "Knauff"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "a response unit, for (a) acquiring *from said data manager information correlating with said type obtained in accordance with the determination made by said transmission source determiner.*" The Office Action argues that various portions of Knauff anticipate claim 1, but does not show the relationship between the portions as claimed in claim 1.

For example, the Office Action cites Fig. 2, #216 of Knauff as anticipating "data manager," Fig. 3, #218 of Knauff as anticipating "transmission source determiner," and Fig. 3, #204 of Knauff as anticipating "response unit." However, the recited figures in

Knauft clearly do not show the relationship as claimed in claim 1. That is, Fig. 3, #204 does not acquire from Fig. 2, #216 information correlating with the type obtained in accordance with the determination of Fig. 3, #218.

For another example, claim 1 also claims, *inter alia*, “generating and returning a response *consonant with said type*.” The Office Action cites “Fig. 5, #514 vs. #544.” It is unclear what is meant by “vs.” Applicants also assume that the Office Action meant Fig. 6. In any case, the citation to #514 and #544 do not provide a response “*consonant with said type*,” as claimed in claim 1. That is, #514 and #544 do not take into account the result of Fig. 3, #218 that the Office Action asserts anticipates “transmission source determiner” of claim 1.

For yet another example, claim 1, further claims “wherein, *as the result of the determination by said transmission source determiner*, when said transmission source has no right of access for said main information, *said response unit obtains said metadata for generating a metadata response*.” The recited figures and text in Knauft do not disclose that Fig. 3, #204, which the Office Action asserts anticipates “response unit,” *obtains metadata for generating a response* or that the response is *obtained as a result of the determination made by Fig. 3, #218*, which the Office Action asserts anticipates “transmission source determiner.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a proper § 102 rejection must anticipate each and every limitation in the claims. Limitations must include not only the individual components, but also the relationships between the components.

The issues addressed above can be found in the six other independent claims: claims 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14.

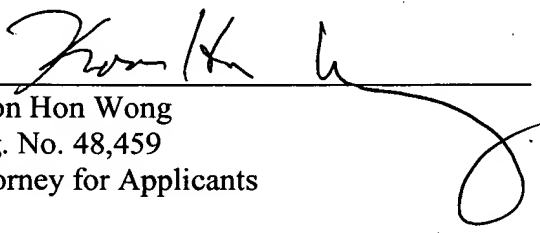
Additionally, for claim 5, the recited figures and text portions of Knauft in the Office Action do not disclose "a response unit, for (a) transmitting...*subscriber information to a user who has paid said fee for said subscriber information, and (b) transmitting at no cost a description of said subscriber information to a user who has not paid said fee.*" Not even fees paid by a user are disclosed in the recited portions of Knauft, much less the various other limitations in claim 5.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 14 are believed to be patentably distinguishable and nonobvious over Knauft. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11, 13 and 15-16 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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